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### Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "10/09/2001 - Homecoming 2001.pdf" (2001). 2001. 176.  
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# NEWS

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01-236

October 9, 2001

For Immediate Release:

## EIU CONFERENCE CHAMPS TO SERVE AS GRAND MARSHALS OF EIU PARADE

CHARLESTON – Members of Eastern Illinois University's 2000-2001 conference champion basketball team will lead the way this year as the streets of Charleston once again welcome a homecoming tradition.

The annual parade – featuring more than 100 units – will begin at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 13, at the corner of Seventh Street and Lincoln Avenue, making its way north on Seventh Street to the Charleston Square, then back south via Sixth Street. Nearly a dozen floats and many other entries are expected to depict this year's homecoming theme -- "How Sweet It Is at EIU."

Parade-goers arriving early enough may glimpse participants of the EIU/McDonald's second annual 2.5K homecoming race. Beginning at 9 a.m., runners/walkers will follow the same route as the parade in competition for awards and prizes. Awards will be presented to male and female overall and top wheelchair, EIU faculty/staff, student and RSO (Recognized Student Organization) participants, among others.

An entry fee of \$10 is required, and pre-registration is encouraged but not required. Registration also will be available between 7:45 and 8:45 a.m. on race day. For information, contact John Henry Pommier at (217) 581-6597.

Immediately following the parade, EIU alumni, students, staff and community members

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**E**astern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 10,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.

are encouraged to visit Tent City, located near the parking lot of O'Brien Stadium on Eastern's campus. This will be the seventh year for Tent City, and areas of representation include the university's colleges and Alumni Association, among others. Admission is free.

In addition, the Leftovers, a four-piece band whose music can best be described as a "rock-n-roll rodeo" (and whose members are all EIU graduates), will entertain from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the O'Brien Tailgate Area. Admission to this event also is free.

At the Homecoming 2001 football game, scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, the EIU Panthers will host the Southeast Missouri Indians. Tickets may be purchased the day of the game at O'Brien Stadium at a cost of \$13 for adults, \$11 for seniors, and \$9 for ages four through high school. Eastern students are admitted free with their Panther I.D.

During the half-time show, Eastern's Alumni Association will honor six of its alumni for outstanding post-graduation accomplishments. This year's recipients are Brent Manning '75, '76, Pat Sullivan '75, and Frank Blum '76, '77, Distinguished Alumnus Award; Joe Strohm '86, '87, Alumni Service Award; and Cheryl Warner '96, '00, Outstanding Young Alumnus.

In addition, Robert Jachino '59, who was unable to return to Eastern during Homecoming 2000 events, will receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award he won last year.

Other events occurring earlier during Homecoming week include a pep rally and bonfire at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 12, near the Campus Pond. The Pink Panthers and members of Eastern's cheerteam will perform; Bob Spoo, head football coach, and his team will be introduced; and everyone, including the general public, is welcome to attend.

(In case of rain, the pep rally will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. in the University Ballroom of the Union.)

Dozens of organizations plan to participate in various other activities taking place this week, including the coronation of this year's homecoming court, set to begin at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10, and Fun Games finals, scheduled to take place from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11, in EIU's South Quad (7 to 11 p.m. in Lantz Gym, in case of rain).

Eastern reminds the public that these events, too, are free and all are welcome to attend.

For a full list of alumni events, please see <http://www.eiu.edu/~alumni/homecoming.htm>.